

REMARKS/DISCUSSION:

This Amendment F is being filed within three months after the shortened statutory period for response that ended on July 11, 2006. Accordingly, a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is included within the transmittal letter filed herewith.

By this Amendment F, claims 23, 26-27, 29 and 32-34 remain pending in this application. Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled. Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 25, which was previously objected to and intervening claim 24.

Amendment and/or cancellation of claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims previously presented. Further, Applicant(s) reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of such claims in continuation and/or divisional applications. Further, amendment of the claims is in no way to be construed that Applicants acquiesce to the double patenting rejections entered by the Examiner in the pending Office Action.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. This Amendment F is in response to a Final Action is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that in view of the claim amendments, the rejections have been overcome and that the invention is now patentable over the cited prior. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all rejections and pass this case to issue.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Account No. 10-0750/END-778/VEK.

Respectfully submitted,

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